This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): A cationic dye of formula I

$$CAT^+ Y^- \quad (I),$$

wherein

CAT^+ is a cation selected from azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline, and quaternized azafluorenone dyes,

Y^- is an anion selected from CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^-, and Im^-,

CAB^- conforms to formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad (II\text{-}1),$$

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad (II\text{-}2),$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II\text{-}3),$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \qquad \text{(II-4)},$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0,

k is 0 if q is 0, and

the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the provisos that:

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$, and

3,3'-diethoxyethyl-2,2'-thiadicarbocyanine trifluoromethyltrifluoroborate is excluded.

2. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of an azine dye.

3. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a xanthene dye.

4. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a polymethine dye.

5. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a styryl dye.

6. (Withdrawn): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of an azo dye.

7. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a tetrazolium dye.

8. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a pyrylium dye.

9. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a benzopyrylium dye.

10. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a thiopyrylium dye.

11. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a benzothiopyrylium dye.

12. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a thiazine dye.

13. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of an oxazine dye.

14. (Withdrawn): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a triarylmethane dye.

15. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein $\underline{CAT^+}$ is a cation of a diarylmethane dye.

16. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of an acridine dye.

17. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a quinoline dye.

18. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of an isoquinoline dye.

19. (Withdrawn): A dye according to Claim 1, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a quaternary azafluorenone dye.

20. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a cyanine dye.

21. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a carbocyanine dye.

22. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of an azacarbocyanine dye.

23. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a diazacarbocyanine dye.

24. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a triazacarbocyanine dye.

25. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a hemicyanine dye.

26. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 4, wherein at CAT^+ is a cation of a diazahemicyanine dye.

27. (Withdrawn): A dye according to claim 1, wherein Y^- is a cyanoborate of

formula II-1

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad (II\text{-}1),$$

wherein

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2.

28. (Previously Presented): A dye according to claim 1, wherein Y^- is a fluoroalkylphosphate of ~~the~~ formula II-2

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad (II\text{-}2),$$

wherein

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4 .

29. (Withdrawn): A dye according to claim 1, wherein Y^- is a fluoroalkylborate of formula II-3

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II\text{-}3),$$

wherein

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4.

30. (Withdrawn): A dye according to claim 1, wherein Y^- is an imide of the formula II-4

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II\text{-}4)$$

wherein

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

with the proviso that

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1.

31. (Withdrawn): A process for the preparation of a cationic dye according to claim 1, said process comprising:

reacting a compound of formula XXI

$$CAT^+A^- \text{ (XXI)},$$

wherein A^- is Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, BF_4^-, PF_6^-, ClO_4^-, sulfate, tosylate, hydrosulfate, triflate, trifluoroacetate, acetate or oxalate,

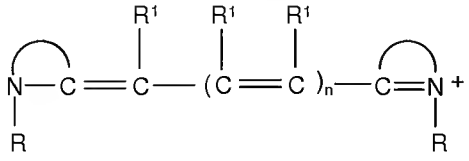
with a compound of formula XXII

$$E^+ Y^- \text{ (XXII)}$$

wherein Y^- is CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- or Im^-, and

E^+ is a cation selected from cations of ~~the~~ alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or of a metal from group 11 and 12, ammonium, alkylammonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, phosphonium, alkylphosphonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, and ~~or~~ guanidinium.

32. (Withdrawn): A process for the preparation of carbocyanine dye according to Claim 21, where the carbocyanine dye conforms to formula XXIII



Y^- XXIII ,

wherein

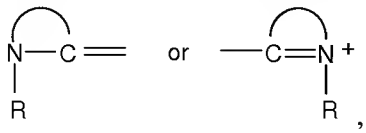
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

R in each case, independently of one another, is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^1 in each case, independently of one another, is H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl,

NHalkyl, $N(alkyl)_2$, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, $P(aryl)_2$, NHC(O)alkyl or NHC(O)aryl and

the ring system, represented by



,

is a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally contains 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms and the heterocyclic radical is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl or $N(alkyl)_2$

Y^- is an anion selected from CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB and Im^-,

CAB^- conforms to formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad \text{(II-1)}$$

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad \text{(II-3)},$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \qquad (II\text{-}4),$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0,

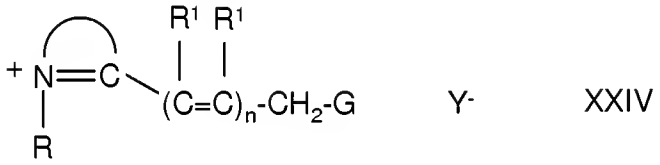
k is 0 if q is 0, and

the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the proviso that

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$,

said process comprising utilizing a compound of formula XXIV



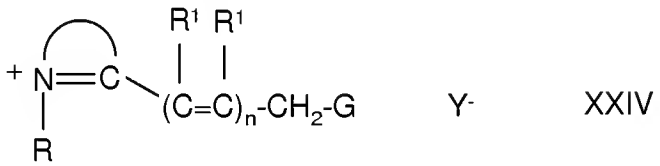
,

where the ring system, R, R^1 and Y^- have one of the meanings indicated in the case of formula XXIII, and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

G is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $N=C(R)_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl or CONHalkyl.

33. (Withdrawn): A compound according to formula XXIV



,

where

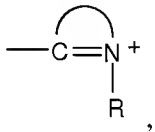
n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

G is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $N=C(R)_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl or CONHalkyl,

R is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^1 is in each case, independently of one another, H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, $N(alkyl)_2$, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, $P(aryl)_2$, NHC(O)alkyl or NHC(O)aryl, and

the ring system, represented by



,

is a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, optionally containing 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl or $N(alkyl)_2$,

Y^- is an anion selected from CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and Im^-,

CAB^- conforms to formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad \text{(II-1)},$$

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad \text{(II-3)},$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad \text{(II-4)},$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

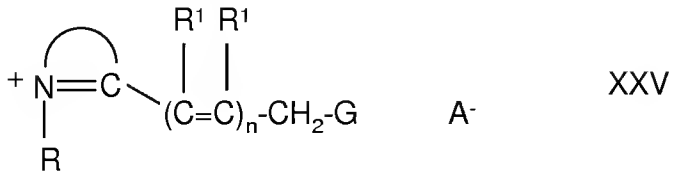
with the provisos that:

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and

if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$.

34. (Withdrawn): A process for the preparation of a compound according to Claim 33, said process comprising reacting

a compound of formula XXV



XXV

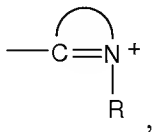
,

in which

A^- is Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, BF_4^-, PF_6^-, ClO_4^-, sulfate, tosylate, hydrosulfate, triflate,

trifluoroacetate, acetate or oxalate,

the ring system, represented by



,

is a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally further contains 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms, and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl, or $N(alkyl)_2$,

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

R is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^1 is in each case, independently of one another, H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, $N(alkyl)_2$, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, $P(aryl)_2$, NHC(O)alkyl, or NHC(O)aryl, and

G is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $N=C(R)_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl, or CONHalkyl,

with a compound of formula XXVI

E^+Y^- XXVI,

in which

E^+ is a cation of the alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or of a metal from group 11 and 12, ammonium, alkylammonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, phosphonium, alkylphosphonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, or guanidinium,

Y^- is an anion selected from CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and Im^-,

CAB^- conforms to formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad \text{(II-1)},$$

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad \text{(II-3)},$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad \text{(II-4)},$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

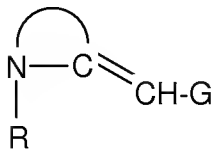
where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$.

35. (Withdrawn): A process for the preparation of a compound according to Claim 33, with the restriction that n in formula XXIV is 0, said process comprising:

reacting a compound of the formula XXVII



XXVII

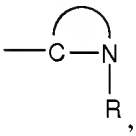
,

in which

G is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $N=C(R)_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl, or CONHalkyl,

R is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

the ring system, represented by



,

is a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally further contains 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms, and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl, or $N(alkyl)_2$,

with a compound HY,

where

Y^- is an anion selected from FAP^-, FAB^- and Im^-,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad \text{(II-3)}$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \qquad \text{(II-4)}$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

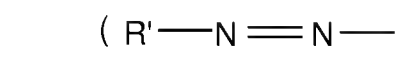
k is 0 if q is 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$.

36. (Withdrawn): A process for the preparation of an azo dyes according to Claim 6, wherein said azo dye conforms to formula XXVIII



XXVIII,

where

R' and R'' are each aryl or heteroaryl and one of the two aromatic nuclei is positively charged,

Y^- is an anion selected from CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and Im^-,

CAB^- conforms to formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \qquad \text{(II-1)},$$

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with

the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad \text{(II-3)},$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad \text{(II-4)},$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F,

said process comprising reacting a compound of formula XXIX

$$R'\text{-}N_2^+ \quad Y^- \quad \text{XXIX},$$

where R' and Y^- has one of the meaning indicated in the case of formula XXVIII,

with an aromatic cyclic or heterocyclic compound R".

37. (Withdrawn): A compound according to formula XXIX

$R'\text{-}N_2^+$ Y^- XXIX,

in which

R' is aryl or heteroaryl,

Y^- is an anion selected from CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^-,

CAB^- conforms to formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad \text{(II-1)},$$

y1 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

R^0 is alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

FAP^- conforms to formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

FAB^- conforms to formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad \text{(II-3)},$$

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

Im^- conforms to formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad \text{(II-4)}$$

X is carbon or sulfur,

p4 is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formulae II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and wherein the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$.

38. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): In a method of colouring plastics and plastic fibres, preparing for the preparation of flexographic printing inks, ball-point pen pastes, or stamp ink, coloring ~~colouring~~ leather and paper, preparing cosmetic formulations, or coloring in biochemistry, biology, medicine, analytics or electronics, the improvement wherein a dye according to claim 1 is used for coloring.

39. (Withdrawn): In a method of using a dye in data acquisition systems, reprography, in ink microfilters, in photogalvanics, laser technology or the photo industry, the improvement wherein said dye is a dye according to claim 1.

40. (Withdrawn): In a method of using a dye for CD recorders, DVD recorders (DVD+R, DVD+RW), Bluray disc (BD-ROM, BD-R, BD-RE), computer to plate, laser filters, laser marking or photopolymerisation, the improvement wherein said dye is a dye according to claim 1.

41. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a polymethine dye.

42. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein p2 is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

43. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein p2 is 2, 3 or 4.

44. (Previously Presented): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein Y^- is $^-PF_3(C_2F_5)_3$, $^-PF_3(C_4F_9)_3$, $^-PF_3(C_3F_7)_3$ or $^-PF_4(C_2F_5)_2$.